

# Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

## Hazing Prevention – Rational & Policy

As a member of the fraternal community, students will understand that hazing acts are both unethical and illegal and do not promote brotherhood/sisterhood. No chapter, colony, student, new member/pledge, or alumnus shall conduct, condone, or participate in any hazing activity. Members will agree to acknowledge and abide by McKendree University's hazing policy, as well as all applicable state and federal laws. See page 2 for taxonomy and examples of hazing activity.

Members of the fraternal community will not willingly participate in or allow hazing activities to take place in their chapter or other chapters, and will report any hazing activities they experience or witness. Members will further understand that if they refuse to participate or report in good faith any activity that is defined as hazing their membership into the Greek community cannot be jeopardized.

Known offenders will run the risk of losing the right to attend McKendree University. Those in violation of the Illinois Hazing Act, are also subject to the sanctions of the state of Illinois.

## McKendree University Policy

17.00 Hazing - No person(s) or group(s) shall force any member(s) of the University community to engage in degrading or humiliating activities and/or situations, or place any person(s) in situations that threaten their health, safety, or well-being, for purposes of gaining entry into or remaining in any University organization or group.

## Illinois State Law

### § 720 ILCS 120/5. Hazing

Sec. 5. Hazing. A person commits hazing who knowingly requires the performance of any act by a student or other person in a school, college, university, or other educational institution of this State, for the purpose of induction or admission into any group, organization, or society associated or connected with that institution if:

- (a) the act is not sanctioned or authorized by that educational institution; and
- (b) the act results in bodily harm to any person.

### § 720 ILCS 120/10. Sentence

Sec. 10. Sentence. Hazing is a Class A misdemeanor, except hazing that results in death or great bodily harm is a Class 4 felony.

## Taxonomy and Examples of Hazing Activity

### Subtle Hazing

“Subtle” hazing refers to activities that are often taken for granted or accepted as “harmless” or meaningless. There is an emphasis placed on a power imbalance between new members and other members of the organization, thus leading to activities or attitudes that breach reasonable standards of mutual respect, and place new members on the receiving end of ridicule or embarrassment. New members often feel the need to endure subtle hazing to feel like part of the organization. Examples include:

- Requiring new members to perform unnecessary duties not assigned to existing members
- Required calisthenics such as sit-ups or push-ups, or other forms of physical exercise
- Sleep deprivation
- The assignment of meaningless and sometimes impossible tasks
- Required “greeting” of members in a specific manner when seen on campus
- Required carrying of certain items
- Required walking in groups to class, the cafeteria, etc.
- Restriction of communication

### Harassment Hazing

“Harassment” hazing confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members. This behavior has the potential to cause emotional anguish and/or physical discomfort. (Note: Some types of harassment hazing can also be considered violent hazing.) Examples include:

- Yelling or screaming
- Personal servitude or chores
- Lineups for the purpose of interrogating, demeaning, or intimidating
- Wearing of embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing
- Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, or harassing other organizations
- Forced confinement
- Being dropped off somewhere and forced to find the way back

### Violent Hazing

“Violent” hazing is behavior that has the potential to cause physical, emotional, and/or psychological harm. It often includes activities that tend to be the most extreme types of hazing. Examples include:

- Capturing or kidnapping
- Total or partial nudity
- Compelled sexual activity
- Pushing, shoving, tackling, or any other physical contact
- Forced consumption of any liquid or food
- Paddling or whipping
- Branding, cutting, labeling, or shaving parts of the body